

N E W S L E T T E R

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ANOTHER NEW TAXING DISTRICT IS FORMED, ANOTHER PENDING

Congratulations are in order to Kentucky's newest library taxing district, the McCracken County Public Library. Formerly known as the Paducah Public Library, the funding and the name will change come July 1, 1999. McCracken Fiscal Court passed an ordinance establishing a countywide taxing district by unanimous vote on April 12.

"The library was getting into financial difficulty, and the board was needing increased revenue," Judge-Executive Danny Orazine said, adding that usage numbers show that more county residents use the library than city residents. "...and the only way we could raise the money was a taxing district."

The ordinance creates a countywide taxing district and imposes a tax of 5 cents per \$100 of assessed value on real property, personal property, and vehicles. Currently, county residents, who make up 43% of the library's almost 36,000 cardholders, don't pay a library tax. Paducah residents, who compose 38% of cardholders, pay a library tax of 4.1 cents per \$100 of assessed value on real and personal property and vehicles.

After the ordinance was passed, library board President David Denton told the fiscal court it had secured the library's future. "On behalf of the library and all its users—now and in the future—thank you very much," he said.

Kentucky now has 104 taxing districts statewide, with two being formed by local ordinance—McCracken and Daviess. Only two counties, Carter and McLean, are without legally established libraries and that may soon change.

"I'm tired of having to go to Ashland (or Morehead) to go to the library!" "I want my grandchildren to have a public library." "I'm embarrassed to go to state meetings and have people say to me, 'Oh, you're from that county that doesn't have a public library!'" These are some of the reasons a group of citizens has decided it's time to try again to establish a public library system in Carter County.

Friends for Carter County Public Libraries has been meeting informally for several months, with FIVCO/Big Sandy Regional Librarian Barbara Greer to advise the group, and State Librarian and Commissioner Jim Nelson and Field Services Director Judith Gibbons attended their last meeting. Officers have been elected and work has begun on a *Plan of Service* and PR materials. The group has decided to work for facilities in Grayson and Olive Hill as well as a bookmobile. Based on tax assessment figures, the group is tentatively planning to establish by petition with a 6 cent library tax. They have been talking to Fiscal Court and the County Judge-Executive and have some promises of support.

INTERNET CLASSES

Lexington Community College is offering online undergraduate credit courses in library science designed to meet certification requirements of Kentucky public library employees. LCC began offering online classes in Spring 1998. Since then almost 200 students from public libraries across the state have taken these classes. The Fall 1999 courses have been developed with assistance from the new Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University as a pilot project for the inaugural year of the KCVU.

Classes to be offered are:

- LB 115 Introduction to Reference Services
- LB 143 Library Services for Children
- LB 299 Special Topic: Virtual Collection Development and Acquisitions
- LB 299 Special Topic: Web Publishing for Public Libraries

Technology requirements are Internet access and Netscape 4.5. Students must have a basic working knowledge of e-mail and Windows 95/NT/98.

There will be a course orientation session in Lexington on Saturday, August 21, 1999, 1-3 p.m. To apply for admission to LCC and to register for the LB courses, use the online form at <www.uky.edu/LCC/LB>. Cost is \$222 for Kentucky residents; \$627 for non-residents. Deadline for application for admission is August 13, and deadline for payment is August 23, 1999.

For more information, contact Martha Birchfield at Lexington Community College via:

voice: 606.257.4872, ext 4159
fax: 606.323.1091
e-mail: lb299@pop.uky.edu.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

Withers Memorial Library in Nicholasville (Jessamine County) has a puzzle table from the Children's Room that they are willing to give to any library who will pick it up. It is 72" long x 24" wide x 30" high. The top is red laminate and legs are black wood. For further information, contact James Snowden at 606.885.3523.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Every so often the *Kentucky Public Library Newsletter* is a theme issue, with past subjects being environmental issues, rural issues, and technology. This edition is featuring children and youth services, but should be of interest to more than just librarians serving that clientele. And, as with other theme issues, there are other articles on other subjects as well.

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Serving Kentucky's Need to Know



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VISIT THE CHILDREN'S ROOM

Pretend you're four years old. When you walk into the children's area, do you see colors and pictures? Are there posters and bulletin boards to delight your eye? The children's area should be bright and attractive to children.

Now pretend you're ten years old. Are there books of interest to you, or do you just see books that were cool when your *grandmother* was ten? Are the shelves labeled so you can find the books easily by subject or call number? Has the library caught on that you are growing up in a visual world and are enticed by frequently changed displays, posters, and books marketed in ways other than just the same old spine out on the shelf?

For many libraries, the cheapest way to improve the looks of their entire children's area is to weed. Just like a garden needs tending to show off healthy plants, removing old, unattractive books shows off the new. Try to keep each shelf no more than $\frac{3}{4}$ full. This allows for growth and face-out display in that empty space. Long ranges crammed with books are just plain unattractive. And no matter how crowded your picture books are, it's a sin to shelve them above the bottom three shelves.

The good news about bulletin boards and display areas is that they provide ample space for creative marketing. The bad news about them is that they provide ample space *every month* for creative marketing. Since they're fun to do, it's easier to get volunteers to work on them. Don't put up book posters unless you own the books. That's like a restaurant advertising chicken fried steak when it only has roast beef.

Above all, keep the area as clean and uncluttered as possible.

KNOW YOUR CUSTOMER

- 8 9-year olds are twice as likely as 17-year olds to read a book at least a few times a week.
- 8 17-year olds read newspapers four times more than 9-year olds.
- 8 51% of 14-year olds read magazines.
- 8 34% of children and 58% of parents cite reading as needed to be successful in life.
- 8 One out of three 3- to 8-year olds are read to on a daily basis at home.
- 8 95% of public libraries sponsor summer reading programs; 89% sponsor storytimes.
- 8 In most cases, the less time children are read to at home the less time they read themselves.

RICH PARENTS READ LESS

Single parents and those with incomes less than \$40,000 read to their children more often than two-parent or higher income households. "These are probably people who recognize more clearly the challenges in the real world," speculated Ruth Graves of *Reading Is Fundamental*, a child literacy program. "Many in lower income families want a better life for their children."

Just over 55% of single parents say they read to their kids daily compared with 44.8% of two-parent households; 55.5% of less than \$40,000 income households do so, compared with 44.5% with higher incomes. Graves theorized that higher income families may take it for granted their children will grow up to be readers. Overall, parents cited lack of time and other children as top reasons they don't read more to their children.

TIME CAPSULES...QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

While all of us in libraryland know the new millennium really doesn't start for another year and a half, at least the nineteen-ninety prefix is going away in just over 200 days. And that may well be reason enough to consider burying a community time capsule—perhaps as a summer reading program project.

What is a time capsule? A time capsule is a container that holds records or objects that show today's culture. The capsule is sealed and deposited in a special place, such as in a cornerstone or vault underground, and it is planned someday to open it to ponder the contents, perhaps 50 or 100 years in the future. The time capsule is a "snapshot of today."

What items should be placed in it? Envision yourself in a museum of the future. What sort of every-day activities do we have which might be thought provoking? Handwritten essays, journals, or "signature scrolls" are often included, and are a special way of personalizing the event. Photographs are popular but need an added note of identification. Newspapers are a popular addition, but beware of acidity. (See Tip # 7 on Page 5.) Do not include items that will require any technology or equipment other than the eye and hand to use and interpret.

What is a Dedication Ceremony? A very significant part of every time capsule placement, the dedication usually includes *short* speeches by local dignitaries. It can include mentioning the items in the capsule. You can dedicate a capsule before it is actually sealed and then create a signature scroll at the dedication.

How public should the ceremony be? Depending upon what you want, you will need

to announce via either press releases to the media or special invitations to a select few.

Can we afford proper protection? You will need to budget for a proper container—one that won't leak and ruin everything inside. Plastic cracks, many metals rust, and any material will leak if not sealed properly. (One suggestion is to modify a Cornelius keg—the five-gallon stainless steel soda pop/beer dispensing containers.) There is also the "inherent vice" involved in some items inside the capsule which lie next to each other for a period of time. Use acid free folders and seek advice from a preservation expert—maybe one from KDLA.

How do we get the items? How public do you want the event? Are you involving the whole community or only those enrolled in summer reading? Consider holding a contest. Think of possible themes, such as "A Day in the Life of a Typical ____ Countian."

Who decides what items go into it? Most will form a time capsule committee with the authority to make the determinations. Or maybe the library director will assume this responsibility. You should be clear on this point before collecting.

Will our capsule be lost? Not if you take proper steps to prevent it. Consider an identifying plaque (an additional cost).

Should we bury our Time Capsule? Over 90% are buried, and high quality stainless steel works well. Advantages include a stable temperature, lack of light, and less chance of vandalism. Alternatives to burial include: a building's cornerstone; a niche inside a building's walls; or placement inside the library.

TIME CAPSULE TIPS

The “buried treasure syndrome” often overlooks the deterioration effects of time in general and the adverse conditions of a time capsule in particular. Here are some tips that should help.

Tip #1 – Use Good Paper.

Acidic paper can yellow and turn brittle.

Tip #2 – No Staples!

Every staple is guaranteed to rust over time.

Tip #3 – No Paper Clips!

Metal clips will rust and vinyl covered clips will deteriorate and revert to the original oily state. Consider using acid free paper, acid free paper envelopes, or Mylar polyester enclosures.

Tip #4 – No Rubber Cement or Tape!

Photos should not be displayed on cheap construction paper glued with rubber cement for obvious “break-down” reasons. Solvent-based adhesive tape can also mar documents.

Tip #5 – Hints for Mounting:

Start with a good backing paper. For documents, use a buffered (high pH) paper and use acid free paper or Mylar corners on your photos. Try not to glue or tape them. If you absolutely must use an adhesive, use a glue stick that is water soluble, of neutral pH, and reversible. Reversible means that you can take something off without ruining the object itself. It’s best not to glue at all if you can avoid it.

Tip #6: Why Laminate?

There are two types of laminating. One is done with two sheets with adhesive on them and sandwiches the document. This means the adhesive is sticking directly on the document and is not recommended. The other kind of laminating is done with a large heat-activated machine and is a much better choice. Remember,

the process is non-reversible. And, while an acidic document will continue to deteriorate over time even if it is laminated, the process may protect a document should the container leak.

Tip #7 – Removing Acid:

If selected paper materials present acidity problems, deacidification may be necessary. Easily applied spray deacidification products (such as Wei T’O and Bookkeeper) are available through library supply catalogues.

Tip #8 – Comb-Bound Booklets:

The plastic used in comb bound products is usually inert and should be fine. Don’t use the metal spiral bindings, as they will rust. Try not to use construction paper or vinyl-based covers.

Tip #9 – Plastic Photo Pages and Albums:

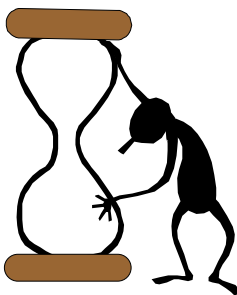
The plastic used in photo pages becomes greasy over time and off-gasses terribly, thus ruining and often sticking to photos and documents. This means the ink will peel off onto the plastic and the emulsion of the photos will stick. Mylar (or Melinex Polyester) is the product to use. Remember, too, that black and white

photos are more stable than color prints

Tip #10 – Identification:

Photos in a time capsule must be identified. Do not write directly on the back with a ball point pen or pencil. Do not use a regular mailing label, but get acid free labels with acrylic adhesive. These often have a foil back. Type on them first, then stick them on the edge of the photo’s back. Or, place the photo with a sheet of acid free paper that has the identifying date on it.

*-- Adapted from Rural Library Services Newsletter
and the Iowa Conversation and Preservation Consortium*



TEENS AND READING

Teenagers' reading habits may not be as hopeless as is sometimes feared, according to a study conducted on behalf of *Publishers Weekly* and Book-Expo America. For example, a poll of 100 teens (ages 12-17) found that they spent approximately 10% of their disposable income on books.

In addition, the teenagers' attitudes toward reading are encouraging. Approximately 86% of the teens surveyed said they read "for fun," and 60% said they believe that kids who read a lot are smarter than their peers. But perhaps the best news is that 78% said they consider reading to be a "cool thing to do."

Libraries have several opportunities to capitalize on this information. Perhaps the first step is to ask a few questions about the young adult (YA) collection. Is it up to date, with plenty of materials about teen concerns and interests, such as dating and sports, or have most of the books been around since the teenage years of the teens' parents? Does the library staff keep up with teens' interests, favorite writers, etc., and try to select materials accordingly? Are there plenty of attractive, "cool," paperback books attractively displayed where teens are likely to see them?

Where is a good spot to house YA collections? Try near the reference desk because when teens come to the public library, it's usually because they're working on a school assignment. Therefore, they frequently approach the reference desk for help. It has been found that if "cool" reading materials are within sight, teenagers will frequently check something out to read "for fun." Of course librarians already know *not* to place YA collections with or close to the children's collec-

tion. This is the "kiss of death," as visiting the children's area is seen by teens as babyish.

READING AND YOUTH STATS

According to the *Kids Count Data Book*, by the year 2005:

- Children under age 18 will increase by 5%;
- White children will decrease by 3%;
- Black children will increase by 8%;
- Hispanic children will increase by 30%;
- Asian and Pacific Islander children will increase by 39%;
- Native American children will increase by 6%.

From other selected sources:

- ♦ One million American children between the ages of 12 and 17 cannot read above the third grade level.
- ♦ Eighty-five percent of the juveniles who appear in criminal court are functionally illiterate.
- ♦ One third of all mothers on welfare are functionally illiterate.
- ♦ Children whose parents are functionally illiterate are twice as likely as their peers to be functionally illiterate.
- ♦ An estimated 85% of correctional facility inmates do not have a high school diploma and more than 75% lack basic reading and math skills.
- ♦ Half of a child's intellectual development occurs between birth and four years of age. Children who are read to from an early age tend to learn new sounds, increase their vocabularies, and stretch their imaginations more than other children.
- ♦ Children 14 years of age and under make up 37% of public library users.
- ♦ A survey of high-achieving teens listed in *Who's Who Among American High School*

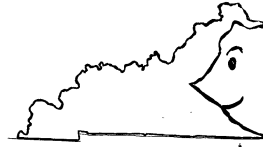
LIBRARIES AND DAYCARE

The more we learn about early childhood development, the more obvious it becomes to librarians that daycare centers need to be considered as potential customers or partners. Miriam Hansen of the Indianhead Federated Library System in Wisconsin suggests the following ways in which libraries can attract daycare centers.

- ✓ Provide age- and subject-appropriate books.
- ✓ Provide lists of appropriate professional materials, including audio-visuals.
- ✓ Provide new book lists to child care providers along with a coupon or invitation to come to the library.
- ✓ Offer to present an occasional storytime at the daycare center. Invite a child care provider to bring the children on a special field trip to the library.
- ✓ Design a special summer reading program for children who can be brought to the library with their teacher-provider.
- ✓ Display daycare students' artwork at the library and invite family members to come and see it.
- ✓ Provide bulk loans of materials to child care centers.
- ✓ Help daycare providers develop specific subject units, focusing on good children's literature.
- ✓ Offer to give a presentation to parents at child care centers.
- ✓ Invite daycare center providers to a special evening "party" at the library where they can see and check out new materials.
- ✓ Develop story kits and make them available to daycare providers.

-- The U*N*A*B*A*S*H*E*D Librarian

'CROSS THE COMMONWEALTH



All across the Commonwealth public libraries and librarians are doing remarkable things that deserve the recognition of their colleagues. This column attempts to highlight some of these. Requests for additional items are continually solicited.

The **Scott County Public Library** has begun construction on a new 28,750 square foot library. The one floor building, with 85 parking spaces, is estimated to be completed in 13 months. The construction bid was for \$3,018,000.

Harlan County Public Library Director, **Thelma Creech**, was named to the "First Ladies of Harlan County"—a group recognized for sacrificing much of their own lives for the betterment of their communities.

This year's Summer Reading Program manual was developed by five staff members of the Louisville Free Public Library: **Debra Oberhausen, Ginnie Hoover, Shannon Farms, Laura Paquette, and Ann Trompeter.**

The **Bowling Green Public Library**, in partnership with the Depot Development Authority, will create a new Digital Learning and Access Center within the historic L&N Depot. The Access Center will be devoted to electronic media, computer access for the public, and on-line research. At the same time the library's main facility will close for approximately 8 months to undergo a major renovation.

LIBRARY TRIVIA CORNER

CHILDREN'S BOOKS YOU WILL NEVER SEE:

Curious George and the High Voltage Fence
The Care Bears Maul Some Campers and Are Shot Dead
Why Can't Mr Fork and Ms Electrical Outlet Be Friends?
The Pop-Up Book of Human Anatomy
The Boy Who Died From Eating All His Vegetables
Daddy Drinks Because You Cry
Testing Homemade Parachutes Using Only Your Household Pets

-- found on the Internet

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
PLEASE FORWARD

Students found that more than 75% were regular public library users.